Gas Flaring Reduction Project

1765. SHRI MURL1DHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gas flaring reduction project is under implementations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the progress made in the reduction in flaring of natural gas;

(d) how Government propose to utilise the natural gas;

(e) whether construction of the National Grid for proper distribution of natural gas to industries is under consideration and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project envisages creation of adequate compression, dehydration and transportation facilities for gas in the Bombay offshore region.

(c) The project is expected to be completed in phases from April 1994 to February 1996.

(d) The gas will be used by industries in the power, petro-chemicals and fertilizer sectors etc.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Addition of Tetra Ethyllcad in Petrol

1766. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that addition of tetra ethyllead in one litre of petrol as is being done by oil companies at present is causing hazardous environmental pollution in cities with heavy traffic;

(b) whether the lead content in petrol was raised from 73 to 83 octane to meet the technical requirements of the Maruti Car since 1984;

(c) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation had planned to provide lead free petrol from September, 1993 and had to postpone it till 1997 under Government pressure; and

(d) whether Govememnt would take immediate steps to undo the present practice of adding 0.5 gm of the TEL in every litre of petrol and making it free of poublic health hazard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Lead addition to Petrol is done within the limits specified in the standards laid down by BIS.

(b) In accordane with the change in BIS specification, the Octane number of petrol was increased from 79 to 83 in 1971 and 83 to 87 in 1984.

(c) Bharat Petroleum Corporation is implementing a project for the manufacture of MTBE to produce unleaded gasolene. The production is likely to start at -end 1995. Foreign collaboration proposal for MTBE was cleared by the Government in December 1992.

(d) Government have drawn up specific plans to reduce lead in Motor Spirit from exisitng 0.56 gm/litre to 0.15 gm/litre by the end of 1994 in the four metropolitan cities of Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras and for the whole country by December 1996. Further, steps have been taken to supply unleaded petrol in Delhi and Bombay by December, 1997.